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SERIES No. 2.

CONSERVATIVE MIS-RULE.

SCANDALS.

The Court House, Montreal, and Others.

A reference to the report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the year ending June 30, 1894, page 137, shows that on the 21st December, 1891, the sum of ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS had been paid to Mr. Berger, for repairs to the Court House at Montreal and that a further sum of \$105,000 had been authorized before that date and has since been paid.

The same page also reveals the fact that since the 21st of December, that is to say, since the present Government came into power, a sum of \$421,198 had been paid for the completion of the Court House.

On page 142 we learn that for repairing and enlarging alone the sum of \$718,500 had been spent up to September 24th, 1894; that there was a claim pending for a further \$100,000 and that the work was not completed.

When the present Government took hold of affairs M. Berger was in charge of the works.

So soon as the Government was sure of its majority it adopted means hitherto unknown in the Chamber by which it gave two new men a finger in the pie; to wit,

Emmanuel St. Louis of Curran Bridge fame and Ludger Cousineau, well-known amidst the Tories.

These gentlemen spent in extra work the sum of \$468,250.00, of which they pocketed twenty per cent or \$93,600 at least.

When Mr. Nantel, Commissioner of Public Works, got well seated in his place he did not seem to be very anxious about the repairs to the Court House going on until he was furnished with all the details "connected with the works."

Orders were given to Mr. Berger to stop and he was to have no further money until the fullest information had been given. Yet in spite of all this on February 19, 1892, some days before the elections just in the midst of the fight, Mr. Nantel seems to have suddenly regained his confidence in Mr. Berger, for he wrote to Mr. Lesage the following letter:

Montreal, Feb., 19, 1892.
Simeon Lesage, Esq.,
Assistant Commissioner of Public Works,
Quebec:

Dear Sir,—After having carefully examined the account of Mr. Berger, I believe that it would be just to pay him a certain amount of the amount due to him on the works, for I am convinced that

after this payment there will remain a sufficient margin to guarantee the Government against any loss.

I am therefore of opinion that out of the appropriations voted a sum of twenty-five thousand dollars—\$25,000—ought to be paid to him at once,

Faithfully yours,
(Signed), G. A. NANTEL,
Commissioner of Public Works.

Was this a part of the famous Moral Obligation scheme? Mr. Nantel has no confidence in the contractor as shown by his earnest desire to have "the most ample information" before he will allow any money to be paid. O. righteous Mr. Nantel. We did not think you capable of such a marvellous volte-face.

To suddenly find out how trustworthy a man the contractor was, right in the midst of the fight and to show the sincerity of his conversion by an immediate payment of cash is certainly a very wonderful transaction and one which ought to be remembered by they others wherever Mr. Nantel appears.

Mr. Lesage evidently understood Mr. Nantel's reason for becoming so very pressing for, the next day, he telegraphed:

"Letter received. I sign certificate for twenty-five thousand dollars on account of the contract."

Who can explain Mr. Nantel's sudden explosion of affection for Mr. Berger? Who comprehend the complete understanding between Mr. Nantel and his assistant?

No one but the man who never loses sight of the fact that the elections took place less than a fortnight later. Therein lies the key to the puzzle.

Let the Hon. Minister explain to the people how it was that he was in such urgent haste to pay that \$25,000 when the very man to whom he paid it has still pending a claim for \$100,000.

Possibly the next few weeks will see some more such letters; some more sudden outbursts of affection for men who have claims against the Government. To face the rising indignation of an outraged people Messrs. Flynn, Nantel & Co., will need all their emergency friends to help them in the hour of dire distress.

See Opposition protest moved by Mr. Girard, (Rouville), and seconded by Mr. Gladu. Journals, Vol. XXVI, page 224. June 7th, 1892. Mr. Stephens' question on November 16th, 1893. Vol. XXVIII, page 118.

Everybody knows how extravagant the Mercier Government was—according to the Flynnites—this deal will show how the economical and honest Mr. Nantel did business.

Here are the wages paid—per day—on the Court House: Masons, \$3.60; bricklayers, \$4.80; laborers, \$1.80; plasterers, \$3.60; carpenters (rough), \$2.70; foremen, \$4.20; single teams, \$2.70; plumbers, gas and steamfitters, \$3.60; helpers, \$2.40 per day.

Mr. Nantel spent \$702,000.00; the extravagant Mercier, \$317,000. Under Mercier the architect got 2½ per cent. commission; under the honest men he got 5 per cent. The Public Works Department with all its architects and engineers costs the country some \$29,000 per annum, and yet it could not out of the whole galaxy of talent find anybody to do the work at the Montreal Court House but had to get the famous Raza, whose name figures in the accounts every year for thou-and—to overlook affairs, and so make an excuse for a disgraceful bill against the Province.

On the 11th January, 1895, Mr. Caron moved, seconded by Mr. Pinault, that:

"This House is prepared to vote the Supplies to Her Majesty, but finds by the documents submitted to it that the sum of \$102,080.23, was paid for repairs to the Montreal Court House before the 21st December, 1891:

"That, according to the valuations of the architects, an additional sum of \$255,000 would have been sufficient to complete the necessary improvements to the said Court House:

"That the present Government immediately on coming into power deemed advisable, for reasons unknown to this House, to change the architects and replace those who had made the plans and superintended the carrying out of the contract by Mr. Raza who had until then

nothing to do with them, whom it has paid professional salaries since 1892, and the

"That, by the appearance that Government of Messrs. Chalifour, Louis and Léon of the works originally sign

"That, more fitted to the Cousineau than to the work, not in for consideration for tenders;

"That the Cousineau were have been paid the wages of them, and the value of the work by a letter September,

"That a sum been expended the 21st Decem-

"That the Cousineau had parent profits said extra work realized on the initial contract.

"That it is the men before Commissioners that a sum has been spent in Montreal City.

"That it is competent declarations still be re-

"That it is the men that to lay before for such a Government and

nothing to do with these works and to whom it has paid the sum of \$24,220.72, for professional services between the 1st July, 1892, and the month of September, 1894;

"That, by the said public documents it appears that on 1st September, 1892, the Government gave to a new firm composed of Messrs. Charles Berger, Emmanuel St. Louis and Louis Cousineau, the completion of the works mentioned in the contract originally signed by Charles Berger alone.

"That, moreover, the Government confided to the said Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau the execution of certain extra work, not included in the said contract, for considerable amounts, without calling for tenders ;

"That the said Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau were to be paid, and, in fact, have been paid 20 per cent. over and above the wages of the workmen employed by them, and 20 per cent. over and above the value of the materials supplied, as appears by a letter of Mr. Berger, dated the 1st September, 1892 ;

"That a sum of over \$468,260.90 has so been expended for extra work between the 21st December and the 24th September, 1894 ;

"That the said Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau have thus made a net and apparent profit of at least \$93,657.18 on the said extra work over and above the profits realized on the work mentioned in the original contract ;

"That it further appears by the documents before the House (Report of the Commissioner of Public Works, page 149) that a sum of nearly one million dollars has been spent solely on repairs to the Montreal Court House ;

"That it appears from the reports of the competent officers and from Ministerial declarations that considerable sums will still be required to complete the repairs and furnishing of the said Court House ;

"That it does not appear by the documents that the Government has consented to lay before the House, that any vouchers for such payments have been given to the Government by the said Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau,

"Consequently this House regrets that the repairs to the Montreal Court House should have been executed with unjustifiable extravagance without any consideration for the resources of the Province nor for public interest ;

"That it further regrets that the Government should have had extra work done without a contract and without tenders for considerable amounts on conditions which constitute an encouragement to dishonesty in the carrying out of undertakings ;

"That this House further regrets that before paying such considerable amounts the Government did not take the most ordinary precautions to ascertain what amounts were lawfully due."

The following voted for the amendment : —Bernatchez, Caron, Dechene, Doyon, Girard (Rouville), Girouard, Gladu, Gosselin, Laliberte, Lussier, Marchand, Morin, Parent, Pinault, Stephens, Tessier (Portneuf), Tessier (Rimouski), Turgeon, in all 18 who voted for honesty and economy.

The following voted against the Province's money being taken care of and in favor of such men as St. Louis netting a cool \$93,000; Allard, Baker, Beaubien, Beauchamp, Bedard, Carbray, Cartier, Casgrain, Chateauvert, Chicoyne, Desjardins, Duplessis, England, Flynn, Girard (Lake St. John), Greig, Grenier, Hackett, Kennedy, King, Lacouture, McDonald, McClary, Magnan, Marion, Martineau, Nantel, Normand, Parizeau, Pelletier, Petit, Rioux, Savaria, Spencer, Tellier, Teteau in all 36 "honest men" who were returned in order to restore the financial condition of the Province by the strictest economy.
(See Journals, Vol. XXIX., page 341.)

THE VALLIERE MORAL OBLIGATION

The present Government is so fond of posing as an example of goodness, in contrast to the wickedness of the Liberals that one is glad to have an opportunity of seeing—in a practical way—a sample of their morals. The Valliere contract will afford an admirable example.

On the 16th of February, 1891, the Hon. Pierre Garneau wrote a letter to Mr.

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Philippe Valliere of Quebec telling him that the Government required a certain amount of furniture for the Court House at Montreal and that he was authorised by his colleagues to inform Mr. Valliere that he, together with Mr. Walker, were to provide the said furniture.

Upon receipt of this letter Mr. Valliere manufactured a certain amount of furniture, amounting to about \$72,000 for which he received \$60,000 on account. This is the celebrated amount which the opponents of the Mercier Government used on their stamping expeditions in the elections of 1892.

When de Boucherville came into power he completely and entirely repudiated any responsibility on the part of the Crown towards Mr. Valliere. This is clear from the words of the Commissioner of Public Works—page 16, “Under the de Boucherville Administration the Government considered that the alleged contract was illegal and contrary to the interests of the Province.”

Such was the state of affairs in 1891.

On April, 27th 1894, this very same Government notified Mr. Valliere that, although it did not consider itself as in anyway bound to him yet it was quite ready to enter into a new contract with him for the supply of furniture.

Mr. Valliere replied that he was ready to enter into a new contract and on June 6th 1894 the Government made a contract by which it not only gave Mr. Valliere that which the de Boucherville Government asserted to be “illegal and contrary to the interests of the Province” but it furthermore gave him the making of the furniture in the Court Houses in Hull and Bryson at the same prices and using the very same lists as had been used by the Mercier Government on the 6th of February 1891.

One thing however had changed, Mr. James Walker, of Montreal whose name had appeared in the letter of M. Garneau as joint manufacturer had disappeared.

To recompense Mr. Valliere for all the bother, which for some reason the Government discovered just at this time he

had undergone, M. Taillon hit upon a remarkable idea worthy of a holy and pure administration. The de Boucherville Government had declared that the contract was illegal. M. Taillon, after three years, thought, found out that he was under a MORAL OBLIGATION to Mr. Valliere. This weighed so heavily on M. Taillon's awakened conscience that he not only gave Mr. Valliere the job to make the furniture for the Montreal Court House, but also for those of Hull & Bryson. It is evident that M. Taillon was not only a penitent, but also so shocked at his former weakness that he was most anxious to make all possible amends. It must have been something terrible that so startled the Government conscience. The curious part of the awakening is that it only affected that part of the official soul which had to do with Valliere.

Process No. 1—The Taillon crowd discover that they had a MORAL OBLIGATION to do that which the de Boucherville party had declared to be “illegal and contrary to the best interest of the Province.” Let it not be forgotten that the men who said the one are the same men who said the other, and that the Taillon Administration declared that it had a MORAL OBLIGATION to do that which Mr. Mercier had arranged. It suited their purpose in this case, there was something to be made out of it; if it had been someone who could not be squeezed he might have whistled for his rights, and as for moral obligations—Whew! See what that did for workingmen when the Bank of Ontario got hold of the money. This part of the deal established, it is beyond doubt that the Valliere's contract is the work of the present Government and it and it alone is responsible for it.

The following is an extract from the contract between Mr. Taillon and Valliere brought before the House January 4th, 1855, (page 276 of the Journal) “That, without acknowledging the pretended contract set up by the said Philip Valliere, as Her Majesty did not desire to take proceedings against the said Philip Valliere to compel him to repay the sum of sixty thousand dollars, but wished to come to an am-

cable arrangement with difficulties with Majesty's Government, etc., etc., all reservations to the said his establishment for the Court and Pontiac

Here is a list of the presents the whole thing being to come allow a man him extra value an illegal \$60,000 to do was the due such as we ants of the like a plague. They are at best of friend tention was done an i good then if government be

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cable arrangement with reference to the difficulties which had arisen between Her Majesty's Government and the said Philip Valliere, consequently Her Maj s y w th all reservations in such cases, did propose to the said Philip Valliere to take from his establishment the furniture required for the Court Houses at Montreal, Hull and Pontiac."

Here is a brilliant example of the deals of the present Government they declare the whole thing as illegal and then wish to come to an amicable arrangement, allow a man to keep the \$60,000, and give him extra work. If Valliere were party to an illegal transaction and had received \$60,000 to which he had no right, then it was the duty of pure and virtuous men, such as we expect to find in the descendants of the crusaders, to have avoided him like a plague; but what do we find? They are all hobnobbing together and the best of friends. If de Boucherville's contention was good then Mr. Taillon condoned an infamous wrong; if it was not good then for three years the Taillon Government basely maltreated Mr. Valliere.

Anyway the Government showed itself to be a corrupt and utterly unworthy

body, deserving of the strongest censure of all honest men.

When the conversion of Taillon & Co. became known, the Opposition, counting in a way on the presumed tenderness of the newly-awakened consciences, asked that the House be informed as to the price to be paid for the furniture before the contract was ratified. This was going too far; the Government was not so much converted as all that; the MORAL OBLIGATION did not go so deep down as to render it necessary for it to take the representatives of the people into its confidence. The Ministerial lambs followed their leaders, and the motion was defeated.

Not only was Valliere to supply furniture on an extended scale, but in a large number of cases no price was fixed; that little matter was to be fixed hereafter by arbitrators, also permeated with a deep feeling of MORAL OBLIGATION, as fixed by clause 2 of the contract.

Amongst the articles manufactured and delivered under this precious scheme appear the following:

Court House, Montreal.

June 10, 1894.

1 Judge's bench for the Practice Court, for the clerk, deputy clerk, Queen's counsel and witness box.	\$2,800
1 Judge's bench, etc., for the Circuit Court.....	2,800
1 desk for the deputy clerk.....	80
29 tables for the Enquête Court at \$25	500
1 desk for the clerk in the Criminal Court.....	125
1 sofa for the Judge.....	45

That is enough for one day. Let any man go into the Courts and see for himself the miserable wooden structures for which the Province has been coerced into paying \$2,800. Good four years' wages of the poor man who has to pay for the scandal. They could be made for \$500, and then leave a good margin; yet the pure, virtuous Government who came into power with the promise to economise paid four times more than they had any right to, and now have the effrontery to come and ask the people whose money they have squandered to return them to power that they may continue their reckless course. These high priced articles are amongst those left to the arbitrators; evidently the MORAL OBLIGATION has weighted very heavily on their consciences.

The following is a selection of articles which the present Government has felt

itself morally obliged to call upon the Province to pay for, undoubt'ly for the same old reason that the Government may have a friend in the time of need—i.e., election days.

July 25.

12 Chairs at \$7.50	\$ 90 00
1 Wardrobe, for Judge Bosse.....	90 00
2 Desks, at \$40.....	80 00
3 Desks at \$40.....	120 00
9 Desks at \$20.....	180 00
14 Desks at \$20.....	280 00
68 Desks, at \$7.50.....	510 00

August 28.

2 Armchairs for the Judges' Chamber.....	90 00
2 Armchairs for the Judges' Chamber.....	90 00
4 Chairs for the Judges' Chamber.....	120 00
1 Couch for Judge Bosse.....	45 00
September 5.	
Repairing large Benches, stuffing, recovering, etc., at \$35	350 00
Repairing 11 Armchairs, covering, varnishing, etc., at \$20.....	220 00
12 Armchairs for Judges' Chambers at \$60	720 00
12 Armchairs for Judges' Deliberating Room at \$60	720 00
2 Armchairs for the Judges at \$50	100 00
1 Armchair for the Sheriff.....	45 00

1 Armchair for the Sheriff	30 00
16 Chairs for the petit juries at \$5.50	88 00
1 Dining Table	50 00
1 Sideboard and Dining Table	85 00
1 Bookcase for the Deputy Sheriff	80 00
5 Revolving Bookcases at \$25.	125 00
1 Couch for Judge Loranger	45 00
September 2.	
2 Tables for the Appeal Court at \$75.	150 00
2 Tables for the Deliberating Room, Superior Court	200 00
12 Cushions for the Judges' Armchairs at \$7.	84 00
Repairing 15 Armchairs for the Judges' Chambers	150 00
2 Armchairs for the Judges	100 00
1 Wardrobe for Judge Lacoste	90 50
3 Wardrobes for Judges	120 00
6 Washing Stands for the Judges' Chambers	180 00
1 Desk for Judge Bosse	100 00
1 Desk for Judge Blanchet	100 00
1 Easy Chair for the Superior Court	45 00
6 Cushions for Easy Chairs—Court of Appeal	72 00
6 Cushions for the Grand Juries	180 00
24 Chairs for the Deliberating Room, Superior Court	180 00
1 Easy Chair for the Judge	50 00
1 Bookcase for Judge Lacoste	225 00
1 Bookcase for Judge Wurtele	80 00
6 Tables for the Judges' Chambers at \$35.	210 00
1 Bookcase for the Judges of the Superior Court	825 00
3 Wash Stands at \$30.	90 00
1 Bookcase for Judges Bosse and Blanchet	80 00
4 Black Walnut Tables for the Judges	160 00
1 Bookcase—Appeal Court	550 00
1 Table, Deliberating Room, Appeal Court	130 00
1 Couch for Judge Lacoste	50 00
1 Couch for Judge Wurtele	45 00
18 Boxes for Envelopes and Papers	135 00
1 Bookcase for Judge Sicotte	325 00
1 Bookcase for Judge Archibald	150 00
1 Bookcase for Judge Doherty	150 00
	\$15,357 00

From this selection it is very evident that the MORAL OBLIGATION of the Government has had a most remarkable result. The amount of easy chairs and couches which the course of justice requires may be perhaps the reason that things go so slowly in the Montreal Court House. Possibly some Montreal tradesmen would like to supply bookcases at \$225 and \$325, and would like the Government to have some more awakenings to moral responsibilities.

The Court Houses of Hull and Bryson are fitted up the same fashion utterly re-

gardless of expense. Add to all this—shewing how deeply the Government lost its MORAL OBLIGATION—the expense of delivering the goods at Montreal \$1,684.75; \$919.26 for those sent to Hull and \$605.65 for the Bryson parcel. The MORAL OBLIGATION reached still further for the conscience stricken Government paid \$800.00 for the storage of the goods during the four years; the period that the contract was regarded as "illegal and contrary to the interests of the Province." Was such a contemptible shuffle ever known in the history of civilized nations? Exorbitant amounts of furniture paid for at extortionate prices and that by a Province up to the eyes in debt; so much so that its Treasurer in order to raise the wind accepts 77 cents for a dollar in his anxiety to get ready cash.

The MORAL OBLIGATION of this moral Government demands the most rigid examination insomuch as it appears to affect only certain things. Whole hearted conversions have been heard of, but a fractional conversion was a feat reserved for the present Quebec Government to present to the gaze of an astonishe world.

Led by a traitor, and backed up by men whose records are sullied by flagrant violations of solemn promises, and the most marvellous examples of word-torturing added to the crassest ignorance of the most elementary principles of business life the Government has out-Heroded Herod. These are not mere assertions as we will show; this wild extravagance now before us is said by the Government to be the result of a profound respect for a MORAL OBLIGATION. What about the other moral obligations? Other individuals, other corporations had contracts with the preceding Government; contracts quite as binding as that of Mr. Vialhere. How did they fare? Let us see.

The Banque Jacques Cartier advanced considerable sums upon letters of credit the legality of which was never called in question. Have these been paid?

The Caisse d'Economie advanced \$60,000 upon similar securities to Mr. Langlois. Has this been paid?

The Waterous people in Ontario did the same. Have they been paid?

What about the MORAL OBLIGATION?

Another extraordinary development of the aforesaid MORAL OBLIGATION was the choice of arbitrators for the valuation of the unpriced items of furniture, the most important being the famous Mr. Raza, who for reasons unknown to the House was appointed by the present Government to replace the former architects, and who drew the nice little sum of \$24,220.72 for

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professional services between 1st July, 1892, and the month of September, 1894. An architect appointed to value furniture. Was there ever such an example of impudent favoritism as to appoint a man to do what he was incapable of doing in order to hide unjustifiable extravagance and shameless waste? An action worthy of the Government containing that Flynn who dared to number himself as a crusader when he began his career as a traitor.

The same MORAL OBLIGATION moved the Government to give the work to the new firm of Berger, Emmanuel St. Louis and Cousineau. What more need be said than to point out the name of the celebrated Emmanuel St. Louis, the gentleman of Curran Bridge fame, in which undertaking he carried out to the full the noble game he began at the Court House.

It is well known that the firm obtained 20 per cent. over and above the wages they paid their workmen, and 20 per cent. over and above the price they paid for the materials. All this appears from a letter of Mr. Berger, dated September 24th, 1894. This same firm also made a net profit of at least \$93,652.18 on the extra work and over and above the first profits on the work. Where does the moral come in here?

Another fact is not sufficiently known to the electors. The repairs—remember, repairs—of the new Court House of Montreal have cost over 1,000,000 dollars. The end is not yet. There are lots of chances for more boodle so long as the Government of the Province remains in the hands of the present incapables.

The whole matter was brought before the House by Mr. Caron, but voted down by the usual servile Ministerialists, men sent to guard the interests of the people and who thus carried out their MORAL OBLIGATION to their constituents.

See Journals, Vol. XXX., page 20, where there is an amendment moved by Mr. Caron and seconded by Mr. Gillies detailing the whole cost and concluding with these words: "That the cost of delivering the said furniture was paid by the Government, and amounts to:

\$1,684.75 for those articles delivered in Montreal;

\$819.26 for those articles delivered in Hull;

\$605.65 for those articles delivered in Bryson.

"That for storing the furniture for four years and transporting the same into three different buildings the sum of eight hundred dollars was paid by the Government, although the contract was passed only on 6th June, 1894.

"This House is, therefore, of opinion that the quantity of furniture required by the Government and the prices paid are exorbitant and out of proportion to the

revenues of the Province and it deems it its duty to register an energetic protest against this extravagant expenditure which constitutes unjustifiable wastefulness and a flagrant violation of the promises made by the Government."

The following voted for economy and care of the Province's funds: Brinatchez, Bisson, Caron, Decheno, Gilles, Gladu, Girouard, Gosselin, Guenin, Laliberte, Lemieux, Lussier, Marchand, Morin, Parent, Pinault, Stephens, Tessier (Portneuf), Tessier (Rimouski), Turgeon. Total—20.

The following voted for extravagance and reckless waste: Alard, Auge, Bakr, Beaubien, Beauhamp, Cartier, Chateaurvert, Casgrain, Cholette, Chiecyne, Desjardins, Doyon, England, Flynn, Girard (Lake St. John), Grenier, Hackett, Lacouture, McDonald, McClary, Magnan, Marion, Morris, Martineau, Nantel, Normand, Parizeau, Pelletier, Petit, Poirier, Rioux, Savaria, Simpson, Spencer, Taillon, Tellier, Tetreau, Villerme. In all 38 men who ought to be borne in mind if they dare to present themselves at the polls and justly rewarded by the voters for their treachery to the best interests of the people and a total disregard of the promises made when they were returned.

On the 8th January, 1897, Mr. Cooke moved the following important amendment:

"That this House is prepared to vote the Supplies to Her Majesty, but regrets to state:

"That on the 4th January instant, Mr. Cooke put the following question:

"What is the total amount paid to Mr. Philippe Valliere, of Quebec, in virtue of the contract of the 6th June, 1894, for supplying furniture to the Court Houses of Montreal, Hull and Pontiac up to the 31st December last?"

"That to this question the Government gave the following answer through Hon. Mr. Flynn: '\$37,038.76.'

"That in Sessional Paper No. 67 of last session, a return to an order of the Legislative Assembly dated 6th November, 1895.

"A statement of the amounts paid to Mr. Philippe Valliere, of Quebec, cabinet-maker, under the contract entered into between him and the Hon. Mr. Taillon, Acting Commissioner of Public Works, on the 17th of June, 1894, from the said date, for supplying the furniture of the Court Houses of Montreal, Hull and Pontiac.

"Also for the payment of the judges' benches and all other furniture, the price of which was not specified in the lists annexed to the said contract, the following appears:

"Arbitrators' award of 9th March, 1895.	\$55,680.80
Arbitrators' award 6th June, 1895.	18,405.45

Total amount awarded. \$74,086.31

"That further in Sessional Paper No. 55 of this session, a return to an order of the Legislative Assembly, dated 11th December, 1890, for a copy of all accounts produced by Mr. P. Valliere, cabinet-maker, in connection with his contract for the Court Houses of Montreal, Hull and Pontiac, since the 6th November, 1895, and for which no price had been fixed in the lists annexed to the contract of the 6th June, 1894. The following appears:

Amount awarded.—	Montreal
Award of 19th March, 1895.	\$19,751.42
Proportion of insurance, etc., . . .	2,225.89
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Bull.	\$21,973.22
Bryson.	794.50
	<hr/>
Bull.	179.70
Bryson.	<hr/>
	\$22,952.42

of 19th March, 1896. Amount awarded.—

Amount awarded.—	Montreal
Award of 19th March, 1895.	\$19,751.42
Proportion of insurance, etc., . . .	2,225.89
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Bull.	\$21,973.22
Bryson.	794.50
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Bull.	179.70
Bryson.	<hr/>
	\$22,952.42

Quebec, 22nd July, 1896.
(Signed), W. G. PIETRY,
Accountant,

"That the total amount so paid under the contract of the 6th June, 1894, to Mr. Philippe Valliere, is \$97,038.76."

"That, therefore, the reply given by the Government seems conformable neither to the facts nor to the documents laid before the House."

The Charlebois Affair.

Amongst the plentiful crop of scandals grown under those able scandal-makers the Tory clique, that known as the Charlebois is not likely to be forgotten in a hurry.

The story begins with M. Charlebois ascertaining that he had certain claims against the Government for the low stone fence around the Parliamentary Buildings at Quebec. These claims arose from a difference in the interpretation of the official letter of 1893, two years after the coming into power of the present regime. M. Charlebois did not press his claims during the first two years of the present Government. At the outset the Government refused to recognise the claims. On April 19th, 1894 M. Charlebois having exhausted all ordinary methods of persuasion, by Petition of Right laid his case before the Quebec courts, claiming \$52,681.80.

The Government contested the case pleading that it owed M. Charlebois nothing, but that on the contrary M. Charlebois had already been paid \$52,540.95 more than was really due to him. It will thus be seen that there is a difference of more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS between the contention of M. Charlebois and that of the Government.

In the Annual Report for the year ending June, 30, 1894 the Commissioner of Public Works remarks on page 33 that; "the

"That this House cannot avoid regretting that the Government has not thought proper to give a satisfactory and correct answer to the question put to it and that the answer given is of a nature to lead the House and the country into error."

This straightforward attempt to get the "honest men" to speak the truth was voted down by the usual crowd.

Scandals are only too plentiful in our Province, but for unblushing effrontry and barefaced prevarication this bids well to take "honors". Mr. Flynn—the "honorable" Mr. Flynn—the "crusader" stands up in his place, and as the representative of saintly and superlatively honest colleagues asserts that Mr. Valliere has been paid \$37,038.76, when in reality he had been paid \$97,038.76. So low has the present Government fallen, after its experience in wrong-doing, that it even cannot speak the truth but is obliged to stand before the country convicted of mean and shameless lying. These are the men who are going about asking to be returned to power upon such a record as that.

A man going to a store looking for employment with such testimonials as the Flynn Government has would be shown the door and advised to—beware of the police.

difference between M. Charlebois' contention and that of the Government arose from the manner of interpreting the agreements which took place at the beginning of April, 1893."

From this it is evident that the trouble is not the outcome of any action of the Mercier Government as it had ceased to exist some two years previously.

The present Government is completely and entirely responsible for the affair which we are considering.

If the defence set up by the Government can be believed, Mr. Charlebois had been overpaid some \$52,000; this defence, if the Report is accepted as truthful, was based upon a return furnished by the Department of Public Works.

The Minister's report upon page 33 reads: "The allegation in the defence that the Government owes nothing and that Mr. Charlebois has received \$52,540.95, over and above his due is based on an account furnished by the officials of the Department of Public Works."

On the 4th of June, 1894, Mr. Charlebois addressed the following letter to the Hon. L. O. Taillon, interim Commissioner of Public Works: "I have received the Government's defence in response to my Petition of Right but as other important business demands my time and attention and to avoid the delays and annoyances of a

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I am willing to try to come to an amicable settlement."

"I will abandon this action, which I began in good faith, and also my claim, which I believe to be perfectly sound, upon condition that I receive the immediate payment of \$40,000."

On the 13th of June in the same year Mr. Charlebois appears to have put him self right with the authorities for the Government entered into a contract with him by which he was forgiven the claim of \$52,540.95 advanced against him, and also given \$10,000, making in all \$92,500, to which he had no earthly right, if the defence put up by the Government in opposition to Mr. Charlebois' first contention was an honest, straightforward transaction and not a hollow mockery and sham.

There is no escape from the dilemma; only one deduction is possible.

Either the defence to Mr. Charlebois intention on April 19th, 1894, was humbug and deceit, and unworthy of any self-respecting body and an insult to the Tribunal before which it was presented or

this Government, which goes screaming about the Province of its economy and must needs lay new taxes to meet its ever accumulating deficits, deliberately, without any excuse or apparent reason, thrust its bands into the poverty-stricken Provincial Treasury, and presented M. Charlebois with the tidy little sum of NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Under the direst pressure Premier Flynn, to save his skin, promised to give \$60,000 to the neglected elementary schools of the Province, an undertaking which has been trumpeted the length and breadth of Quebec in order to impress upon the electors the great care and tenderness of the Government for the people.

\$60,000 for the education of the little ones; \$62,000 as a present to M. Charlebois.

All the children of the Province are worth \$32,000 less than the one man who will help the Government to keep its place and power!

Is this a Government worthy of the support of an honest man or of a patriot?

How Crown Lands are Mismanaged.

A very considerable part of our income coming from the Crown Lands it is of vital importance that this Department is managed in the most economic way and that the very best is made of everything.

How are things done? A very little consideration will show that the same reckless waste, the same utter lack of business capacity, the same stuffing of offices with friends characterizes this Department as it does every other one under the present Government.

Look at the thing from a business standpoint. In the autumn of 1892, the neighboring Province of Ontario sold 633 square miles of timber limits for TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS; at the very same time this Province sold 1,938 square miles for FORTY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS. This was so startling that we give the authorities for these statements so that any voter can verify them for himself.

See official statement produced before the House of timber limits sold on the 15th December, 1892, Sessional document, 12038, 1893.

What does this mean? Simply this; that if Quebec had sold her lands in the same way that Ontario did we should have got \$7,000,000 We did get \$32,218

From which it is clear as the noon-day sun we lost \$6,967,782

Here is a specimen of Tory business. In one transaction we lost over SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. The Pro-

vince of Ontario has a Liberal Government of level-headed business men; the Province of Quebec has a Tory mob of incapables who never shine except when a nice little scandal is to be engendered with lots of crumbs for the hangers-on at the rich men's table.

Last year Ontario had a surplus of over TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, whilst our poor Province is loaded down with a debt of over THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS; a debt that is increasing daily.

What wonder when by one transaction we lose over \$900,000. Enough to pay off the iniquitous Paris loan and give a good round sum to the neglected elementary schools of the country districts. All lost by one blundering attempt at business by the Tories.

The public do not seem to be aware of the fact that the Government do not wish the Crown Lands to be sold at the very best prices. An honest and patriotic Government strives to make the most of all its resources in order to promote the well-being and prosperity of its people that is but natural; but the Government which has but one aim and that to keep office in order to find places for a crowd of men incapable of earning their daily bread if turned out into competition with their fellow men, has no such desire. The plums must go, not to swell the Public Treasury but to gorge the creatures who will assist when the elections are on.

We have proof positive of this; Mr. Flynn, the then Treasurer, the present Premier, proud of his descent from the valiant crusaders - changed the law concerning

the sale of public lands so as to make it most difficult for those men who wished to buy to know when the sales are to take place.

According to this Flynn law the sales are held after 30 days notice is given, WHERE?

In the Official Gazette and in those papers which the Government enriches with its patronage and nowhere else,

Thus it is that the Government favorites alone are informed in time to make the necessary inspection of the lands and to make such enquiries as buyers wish to do. This law has cost, and will continue to cost, this Province thousands upon thousands of dollars. It allows the minions of the Government to get possession of our forest reserves at disgracefully low prices—as the example quoted above shows—and thus the last resources we have left are being squandered to bolster up a corrupt and knock-kneed administration.

Inside the Department as outside the same waste and favoritism, paid for by the Province, reigns supreme. One example out of scores will show this. It is in this Department that Mr. O'Sullivan is a land surveyor. This gentleman in three years has drawn THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THREE DOLLARS for surveys and at the same time \$1,000 per year as a permanent official of the Department.

We would like to know how Mr. H. O'Sullivan, a permanent official employee in the office of the Department at Quebec, could make surveys extending from Lake Temiscamingue to far-off Labrador.

While rushing to and fro over this enormous distance it would be interesting to know how he did his office work in Que-

bee. He must have done it, because he drew his two salaries all the time, and everybody knows that the saintly galaxy at Quebec would never allow a man to draw a cent that he did not work for. This gymnastic feat of H. O'Sullivan is commended to the attention of the voters of the Province. In the days when it is hard enough to earn one salary, the way to make two would be of great interest to the toilers of our people.

The Commissioner of Public Lands promised to exercise the greatest economy; the above shows his idea of what economy means and explains why the Province is in the financial strait it is to-day.

There can be no stronger proof of the need we have of a change than the reports of the Quebec Crown Lands Department.

See Journals XXIX., pages 120 and 203.

On December 24th, 1896, in reply to a question by Mr. Turgeon, the Government stated that "Mr. Henry O'Sullivan was paid the sum of \$4,780 as inspector of surveys since the first of July, 1896, for accounts due before that date and since."

It is evident that this gentleman still continues his well paid for gymnastic performances. (See Journal XXXI., page 288.)

On November 7th, 1895, according to an answer given by the Hon. Mr. Flynn to Mr. Dechene, it appears that the honorable gentleman attends to Gaspe well. Mr. Flynn said that "no extra salary or remuneration had been fixed for the present." The Public Accounts for 1895, page 209, show that he got \$877.45 as an extra, whilst in 1896, page 231, he got \$564.00. That's the way the money goes.

The Bank of Ontario's Little Bell.

All the world knows that it was the Bank of Ontario which began the agitation against the Mercier Government.

We will see the conduct of this pure-minded and righteous institution as revealed by its own methods of dealing.

This bank claimed the sum of \$28,000 which had been paid over by Mr. McFarlane, the contractor of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway.

The Mercier Government had paid all the subsidy to which the contractor was entitled, and consequently refused to pay the Bank. Hence the wrath of the Bank of Ontario and of its advocate, Mr. Barwick. Hence also the Senate's unconstitutional enquiry into the affairs of the Province.

When the present Government came into power the Bank realized that at last it had the "right sort of men" to deal with—true-blooded Tories—whereupon it de-

manded the payment of the capital sum of \$28,000, and the interest accruing thereon, making, in all, \$36,000.

The Government, strong in its Parliamentary majority, made up of "the right sort of men," asked the House to vote the sum of \$36,000 to indemnify—or, rather, to recompense the Bank of Ontario.

Let it be borne in mind that the Government had paid all the subsidies earned by the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, and that, therefore, the \$36,000 had been paid already; in short, this sum was paid twice over.

The very Government which did this is the same as the one which refuses to pay the legitimate debts contracted by its predecessors, or those which are due and owing to people who are not of the same political stripe as Their Lordships at Quebec.

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Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that this same Bank of Ontario had drawn from the Federal Government more than \$14,000 to pay that which was due to the workmen and employes of the company. This high-minded and virtuous Institution drew the money, but did not pay either the wages or the salaries which were due.

The Government was fully aware of the fact, and instead of coming to the aid of the thousands of workmen and employes of the company it has recompensed the bank which helped it into power.

Let the electors remember one thing about this scandal. The Senate's enquiry was undertaken with the sole object of endeavoring to offset the effect of the enquiry being made by the House of Commons into the McGreevy-Connolly and other scandals with which the Federal Government was mixed up. It mattered but little to the Senate that the Provincial rights were being infringed. The

Tory clique at Ottawa and the Tory directors of the Bank of Ontario had to be protected, go to the wall who might.

Let the workingmen of the Province bear in mind what the present Government did to their brothers in this bank business. Poor laboring men may whistle for their hardly earned wages, their wives and children may starve for the want of the money which is justly theirs. What has the Government to do with that so long as it helps a rich bank which helped it to power?

At the polls the workingman's vote can swamp all the power the bank can bring forward or all the deceit a corrupt party can produce. Only let the men remember the base way in which the present Government betrayed the toilers in order to assist a rich bank, and then the whole company, led by a traitor, will be swept out of existence, and replaced by honest and just men.

The Ouimet-La Bruyere-Chapais Shuffle.

From 1882 till the beginning of 1895 the Legislative Council was presided over by one of its members who was not a Minister. In 1895 a law was passed that the President of the Legislative Council, in future, was to be a member of the Executive Council of the Province.

Why was this change made? The former law had worked smoothly and well. Everyone asked what the new arrangement meant.

In order to understand the motives of the Government which led to the passing of this law it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that M. Thomas Chapais, the proprietor of the Courries du Canada, was a Minister WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, in the de Boucherville Administration, and also in the Tailleur. Poor M. Chapais was getting no salary.

In time M. Chapais got tired of governing for mere honor's sake and demanded a fit and suitable recompence for those services he fully believes to be of the greatest value to the country.

For many and sundry reasons well known to Flynn & Co., the Government could not satisfy his wishes by giving him a portfolio. When they were in this unhappy fix there came a happy inspiration, the outcome of which was Vict. 56, cap. 13.

This manœuvre allowed the Government to nominate M. Chapais, Speaker of the Legislative Council, keep him in the Ministry and give him the much-to-be-desired end—DOLLARS. No longer need the poor man toil and slave and give of his gigantesque abilities for "mere honor;" now he had THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS, besides his sessional indemnity. This was the practical result of Vict. 56, cap. 13, to M. Thomas Chapais.

But that was not all the shuffle. The consent of M. La Bruyere, President of the Council, was to be obtained. He could not be put out in the cold. That would never do.

Naturally, Mr. La Bruyere could not move unless he got more salary—and a permanent position. What was to be done? Another happy inspiration. The long-suffering Department of Public Instruction—happy hunting ground for "back-numbers"—gave a title to Mr. La Bruyere and THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum to the obliging gentleman. So the education of the Province passed into the hands of a man who successfully keeps Quebec at the bottom of the list of Provinces, so far as his Department is concerned.

Still the shuffle was not complete. There was a Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Hon. Gédéon Ouimet. Every one knew he would not move without a "consideration."

Another block; another happy inspiration.

Mr. Ouimet was superannuated; he was reputed incapable of doing his work. Yet be it known unto all men that though he was not capable of being Superintendent still the Government in its wisdom deemed it good to make him a Legislative Councillor.

Of course Mr. Ouimet had to be compensated for all his trouble and for his gracious condescensions in according to the exigencies of this situation. He got a pension of TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

Then he was given EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS per annum as Legislative Councillor. Nor is that all the Council of

Public Instruction voted him a further a sum of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS as a small recompense for his valuable services—for which he had already been well paid and in the exercise of which he was a brilliant failure.

In connection with the Department of Public Instruction there is a pension fund; into this fund Mr. Ouimet paid only some \$240. Out of that fund he draws, till death, TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS, annually. This surprising piece of arithmetic is commended to the attention of the teachers of the Province and especially to those who receive the princely incomes ranging from \$40 upwards paid in some of the schools of the Province.

Here is the charming sequence to which the electors' attention is called. La Bruyere becomes the Hon. the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and is recompensed. He is all right.

Mr. Ouimet goes to the Legislative Council—and is recompensed. He is content.

And Mr. Thomas Chapais no longer toiled and moiled for nothing; a grateful Province added to his \$800 the snug little extra of \$3,000 and the first act of the shuffle was complete.

Having tasted of the sweets of a good salary, and no doubt proud of the success of the former deal, Mr. Chapais was not satisfied with the state of affairs and so there was another shuffle. This took place last Session when a new portfolio was created in order to give Mr. Chapais an opportunity of showing the world what he can do and markedly what he cannot do. This portfolio, that of Colonization and Mines, invented for Mr. Chapais, enables him to draw FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum, instead of what he had before. But that is by no means all, now he has a Département with deputy, clerks, messengers, which will cost the Province another FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum at least, but then it will also allow Mr. Chapais to be a full-fledged Minister, at last, and to have some nice little bits-of patronage with which to reward his faithful ones.

Mr. Chapais could now no longer, with dignity to himself, occupy the position of President of the Legislative Council, especially as a law had been passed to the effect that if a Minister held the position he could not draw the salary, to wit, \$3,000 in addition to the \$4,000 as Minister. To govern for "mere honor" was out of the question as we have seen above; moreover, there was an excellent chance to reward another of the faithful with THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS per annum: thus it was that Mr. Larue was made Speaker of the Legislative Council and the last act of the comedy became an accomplished fact.

Another burden upon the tax-payers added by a Government that solemnly promised not to add to the already outrageous burdens that press upon the people. We have one compensation, the whole string of honorable gentlemen have been provided for. That is much to be thankful for, for their histories do not show that if left to their own devices, they would have been able to do so of their own unaided endeavors.

Another scandal to add to the long list which defiles the Parliamentary record of the Province.

This shuffle was the theme of an amendment moved by Mr. Denehy and seconded by Mr. Turgeon on Dec. 20th, 1895 (see Journals of the House, vol. XXX, page 307.) The Ouimet-La Bruyere part cost the Province an annual increase of \$1,300 over and above the \$2,600 voted by the Catholic Committee of Public Instruction.

The reason advanced by the Hon. Gédéon Ouimet for his wishing to retire is "that the work is a little heavy for him." This is for the public eye from the letter to the Provincial Secretary, dated March 26th, 1895. The honorable gentleman's health appears to have undergone a marvellous change since he became a paid member of the August Chamber of Ornamental Nobodies. That he found the work of the Education Department "a little heavy upon him" nobody doubts. The proof of his absolute incapacity to do anything is stamped upon the neglected schools of the Province and perpetuated for generations to come in the disgraceful illiteracy of the unfortunate who attended them.

The work was too heavy for you, Honorable Sir, just as it is for the honorable gentleman who succeeded you in the shuffle!

The Hon. Mr. Chapais who caused all the trouble in order to be properly compensated is a well-known political gentleman. He comes of a good stock, and is in an admirable position to get all the necessary advice as to the proper management of the many and sundry little matters which his exalted position brings to his notice.

He is the son-in-law of the notorious Sir Hector Langevin, who, in combine with those other honorable gentlemen, Thomas McGreevy, M. and N. Connolly relieved the Treasury of a superabundant \$900,000, and who eventually became too advanced in such deals even for such veterans in financing tortuous and arrangements peculiar, as his Tory colleagues at Ottawa.

In the calm shades of retirement the Hon. Thomas has had the benefit of the mature advice of Sir Hector. The above shows what an admirable pupil he has been. He has been thoroughly coached in the benefits of a department; the result of

which will be seen if the people of Sir Hector Langevin little while.

This opinion of the Hon. T. there is no getting dead men from a letter penneable" gentleman

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Hon. Mr. Mc

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which will be seen in the Public Accounts if the people of Quebec allow the pupil of Sir Hector Langevin to run affairs for a little while.

This opinion is founded upon the action of the Hon. Thomas Chapais himself, so there is no getting behind corners or blaming dead men for what was done. Here is a letter penned by the aforesaid "honorable" gentleman which speaks for itself:

St. Denis, February 15th, 1887.

Hon. Mr. McGreevy, Quebec:

Dear Sir,—Please send me by express the rest of the money allotted to Kamouraska, that is \$1,500. I have already received for our legitimate expenses a total of \$1,500, for which I have given you receipts. I will acknowledge receipt by return of mail. Address the packet thus, Monsieur Charles Dionne, Riviere Ouelle. If you can send it to me in a box well corded so much the better. We are watched on all sides. I cannot go to Quebec, therefore ask you to send the money by express. I ask you above all to be speedy. Things are going splendidly here. One more effort and all will be well. Charles Dionne, to whom I ask you to send the money, is a sure man. He is my cousin. My presence here is essential.

Yours truly,

THOMAS CHAPAINS.

This is the letter of one of the leading "honest men." Note the "well corded box." Honest men do not seek to do things in the dark. They do not care who watches them. Note also the cousin who is "a sure man."

The whole is saturated with shuffling and double-dealing. Let the Hon. Mr. Little-Box-Well-Corded be asked to explain this delicious epistle when he stands up to cant about the virtue of the Hon. Thomas Chapais and the honor of his colleagues in similar honorable transactions.

It is interesting to note that that Hon. Mr. T. Chapais is a member of the Council of Public Instruction to which he was appointed in the autumn of 1892 because he was perfectly qualified to fill the

high position" (See Journal Vol. XXVIII, page 360). We have long known the incapacity of the Education Department but it was a new thing to learn that a man who wrote such a letter as Chapais did to McGreevy was "perfectly qualified." This point of view throws much light on many queer things.

Questions re Ouimet's Pension. Journals Vol XXX. pp. 22, 45, 104.

When Mr. Flynn, on the 21st December, 1886, moved that bill No. 11: "An Act to reorganize the Departments" be read a third time, the Hon. Mr. Marchand moved in amendment:

"That this bill institutes a new department of the civil service, entailing a considerable increase in the annual expenses of that service, instead of contributing to the policy of economy promised by the Government during the last electoral period and by means of which it obtained the support of a majority of the electors.

"That this House is prepared to support any reorganization of the various departments, which, without injuriously affecting the efficiency of the civil service, will reduce the expenses but that it refuses to adopt the legislation submitted, because it would give rise to considerable additional expense without producing further results than giving occupation to Ministers who, according to the declarations of the Honorable Prime Minister before this House, have no opportunity of utilizing their administrative talents.

Lost by the usual party vote. But it must be remembered that the Province now has the benefit of Mr. Chapais being able to have the opportunity of using "his administrative talents." This will be of great value if he does as he did in Kamouraska.

On the 26th January, 1893, the Hon. Mr. Marchand moved, seconded by Mr. Tessier (Portneuf): "That considering the poverty of the Province economy was absolutely necessary and amongst other things, recommended 'The decreasing the number of Ministers to the lowest number, consistent with the proper working of the Government.'

It will thus be seen that the Liberals have consistently voted in the first and last session for economy, whilst the Tories have as persistently voted for extravagance.

The Beauport Asylum Scandal.

Amongst the many scandals of which the Flynn Government has been the prolific mother, none will be better remembered than the famous Beauport one.

No other Government will dispute its parentage. The Beauport affair is the creation of the present Government entirely: no one else had anything to do with

that marvellous piece of chicanery. It is well known that the Tory proprietors of the Beauport Asylum were intimately connected with the plotting that preceded the fall of the Mercier Administration. They wanted to sell their property well—so soon as the Tories got into power at Quebec the deal was proceeded

with, the upshot being that the property was indeed sold in a way most satisfactory to the vendors.

The contract made with M. Landry—the proprietor—for the keep and care of the insane in Beauport Asylum expired on April, 30th, 1893. The Opposition, in the 1893 Session, asked the Government to submit to the House such propositions as might be before them on this matter before signing them in order that everyone might know what was being done.

The Government with its usual slavish following rejected this just and constitutional demand by the ordinary partisan majority.

In the 1891 Session the Government laid before the House a contract signed by the parties before a notary. This contract was to be ratified at any price in other words they, having fully committed the Province coolly informed the House that the contract must be confirmed that the contract must be confirmed or an action for heavy damages would lie against the Government for breach of contract.

They got the Province into a hole, and then insisted on the Province carrying out their deal in order to protect itself against the possible result of their misdeeds.

Let us see what this contract was which was to be signed, cost what it might.

The Nuns bought the Asylum from the proprietors; the Government standing as security for them. The price the Nuns paid being \$425,000—\$327,000 for immovables and \$98,000 for movables. The \$98,000 for the movables were to be paid at once.

The proprietors had certain mortgages upon the immovables, and they insisted upon having \$90,000 in cash. This the Nuns borrowed from the Standard Life Assurance Company at 4 per cent., repaying in thirty years, and not before.

With the \$90,000 the Nuns paid off the mortgages of the former proprietors, the Government becoming security to the Standard Company for the \$90,000. Besides this the Government guaranteed the payment of \$18,600 per annum for sixty years to the proprietors to pay off the price of sale.

Now, let us find out what the Government got as the result of all this guaranteeing and so forth.

First, it has a recourse upon the movables of the Asylum for the guarantee given to the Standard Company to the extent of \$90,000.

Secondly, it has the Asylum itself for the \$327,000, which it has undertaken to pay in sixty annuities of \$18,600.

These annuities the Government has arranged.

Now we come to the important point: arranged to retain from the sums which it will have to pay the Nuns for the care of the insane, each year, at the rate of \$100 per head—there being some 1,000 to 1,200 insane.

The contract for the care of the insane, with the Nuns, is only for TEN YEARS, but the Government is responsible to the Standard Life Company for the repayment of \$90,000 in THIRTY YEARS and to the proprietors of Beauport Asylum for SIXTY YEARS.

Ten years before the Asylum was valued by the proprietors and others at \$270,000, Messrs. Landry and Co. having paid to one of their co-owners \$45,000 as the price of a one-sixth share. At that time there were several years of the contract unexpired, and naturally the property was of more value than it was ten years later. In spite of all this, the Government agree to fix the price of sale at \$425,000, or \$155,000 more than the proprietors themselves had valued the property at, thus wasting that amount of money at the very time that they were obliged to go a-borrowing in order to meet their current expenses. This is the sort of men who seek for the suffrages of the electors in order that they may continue to handle the Province's money for the benefit of "self and friends."

Mr. Peters, the Government arbitrator, valued the whole at \$310,000, and offered to build a new asylum for that amount.

The Nuns in their letter of October 31, 1892, refused to give more than \$320,000, and offered, in case this proposal was rejected, to build a new asylum at their expense and under Government inspection.

Why, then, were they compelled to give \$425,000?

It may be said "that the Nuns have bought and the Government have nothing to lose thereby."

At the outset, the Government, as noticed before, made a contract with the Nuns for TEN years; clause II. of that contract of sale reads thus: "At the expiration of the present contract, if it is not renewed by the consent of the parties, or if by the consent of the parties the contract is terminated before the expiry of the ten years the Government to become the proprietor of all mentioned in the preceding clause under the conditions therein mentioned."

The preceding clause says: "10. The Government of the Province of Quebec may, at any time during the present contract, become proprietor of the Beauport Asylum and its dependencies, on condition of paying for the acquittal of the said Nuns and in their stead and place pay each and all of the said quarterly payments which are mentioned in the contract between the proprietors of the Asylum and the Nuns."

In virtue of this agreement the Government may at the expiration of this contract with the Nuns, or even before, become proprietor of the Asylum and be compelled to pay \$425,000.

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proprietors, ten years before, when both the movables and the immovables were much more valuable, only asked \$270,000 and even the arbitrator, Mr. Peters, fixed \$310,000 as a fair price. Messrs. Landry and Co. saw very clearly that if the Government, by virtue of clause 11, became proprietor they would net a clear \$155,000 if their own valuation was accepted as a base, or of \$114,000 if that of Mr. Peters was taken.

Beyond all this a clause was put into the contract by which the Government engages to reimburse the Nuns for all the improvements which they may make by the order or by the authority of the Medical Superintendent.

The Nuns have already spent \$44,000 for repairs which were necessitated by the bad state of the Asylum, and which they forced the Government to pay.

In the Supplementary Budget for the year 1893 the sum of \$19,395 was voted and lent to the Nuns, without INTEREST FOR FIVE YEARS, 3 per cent., to be charged when the five years have expired.

The Nuns contend that they are not obliged to repay this sum. They have refused to give the Government any acknowledgment whatever or to give any promise of repayment. After the Nuns had declared their position and refused to recognize any liability to the Government, that very same Government in the Supplementary Budget for the year closing June 30th, 1895, asked for and succeeded in getting voted the sum of \$25,000 on the same terms.

The Government, less than two months after the passing of this disastrous contract, had already disbursed \$44,000 on which they will receive no interest for five years in any event; \$44,000 which the Nuns will not acknowledge as a loan, but which they claim as due to them for repairs made by the order of the Medical Superintendent and in virtue of the clause above cited.

\$44,000 which cannot be recovered except by taking process against the Nuns, a course which would in all probability never be followed, as it is well known that in this country it is always both difficult and dangerous for a Government to drag members of Religious Orders before the Courts.

Here is the outline of this atrocious scandal—a banner scandal even in the history of a Government which has shown itself a past-master in that line of business.

A man is given anywhere from \$114,000 to \$135,000 more for a property than it is valued at by his own valuers, and that after it has depreciated; which property is not fit for the purposes for which it was bought. It is notorious that Beauport Asylum is utterly unfitted for a place of residence for the insane; who ought to have the very best of buildings with up-to-date fittings. The very fact of the Nuns at once spending \$44,000 amply proves this.

Can anyone dream for a moment that the Nuns have any intention of becoming the proprietors under such conditions? They have a profitable contract for ten years, and the Government is paying the main expenses. As soon as it becomes burdensome the Nuns will without doubt throw their obligations upon the shoulders of the Government, which will then assume its real and intended position of actual purchaser.

We are face to face with two facts which every elector in the Province ought to ponder over and demand an explanation of from the supporters of the Flynn Government, who are each and all responsible for the crying shame that rears its head at Beauport and stands as a perpetual rebuke to our miscalled rulers.

(1) Why was Landry presented with this large amount of the people's money? Only one reply seems feasible; he is a particular friend of the renowned Pelletier. Surely that ought to count for something. It generally does. He is a good Tory, is M. Landry, and that certainly counts as cash under the present regime. (2) In order to properly acknowledge all these benefits the Flynn wigwam wastes money, buys a building which is unfit for the purpose for which it was purchased; enters into an agreement with the Nuns which by their Act of Incorporation they cannot enter into thereby paving the way for all manner of difficulty and trouble and not content with all this they bind their successors for SIXTY YEARS by their reckless deeds and all this to "oblige a friend."

Shall this conglomeration of barefaced spendthrifts continue to hold high festival and orgy in the Legislative Chambers, declining in their pride to even descend to answer the people's representatives when they ask for an account of the money wrung out of the hard-worked-for earnings of the masses, now being flung by handfuls to the Government jackals?